

Message Text

MRN: 1973ISLAMA004715 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04715 02 OF 03 081347 Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P 081157 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9585

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 ISLAMABAD 4715

EXDIS

6. IF GOP IS ADAMANT THAT PHASING OUT OF SETTLED AREA PRODUCTION WILL HAVE TO BE DONE OVER SEVERAL YEARS, WE BELIEVE USG SHOULD BE READY WITH FALL- BACK POSITION THAT GOP SHOULD PROCEED WITH ELIMINATION OF LICENSING OVER TWO- YEAR PERIOD IN TWO EQUAL INSTALLMENTS, LEAVING FOR SECOND YEAR AREA WHERE POPPY CROP IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO LOCAL ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE, HTEHSILS (SUBDIVISIONS OF DISTRICTS) IN WHICH LICENSED PRODUCTION HAS OCCURRED CAN BE RANKED IN FOLLOWING ORDER: (A) SWABI (MARDAN DISTRICT); (B) HARIPUR (HAZARA DISTRICT); (C) CHARSADDA (PESHAWAR DISTRICT); (D) MARDAN (MARDAN DISTRICT); (E) MANSEHRA (MANSEHRA DISTRICT); (F) PESHAWAR (PESHAWAR DISTRICT); AND (G) KOHAT DISTRICT). STUDY OF VARIOUS SETS OF FIGURES WE HAVE SUGGESTS THAT SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF OF TOTAL SETTLED AREA PRODUCTION OCCURS IN SWABI TEHSIL, WHILE HARIPUR AND CHARSADDA EACH AMOUNT FOR ABOUT 15 PERCENT, MARDAN 10 PERCENT, WITH VERY LIMITED LICENSED PRODUCTION IN MANSEHRA, PESHAWAR AND KOHAT TEHSILS. (SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF HARIPUR CULTIVATION WOULD IN ANY CASE BE ELIMINATED BY THE RISING TARBELA RESERVOIR BY 1974 OR 1975.) THUS WE SUGGEST THAT -- WHILE PRESSING FOR IMMEDIATE PHASEOUT-- FALL- BACK POSITION SHOULD BE THAT IN 1973-74 SEASON, LICENSEES SHOULD BE ISSUED FOR PRODUCTION ONLY IN SWABI TEHSIL, A CUT OF APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT, AND THAT IN 1974-75 NO FURTHER LICENSES SHOULD BE ISSUED. IN OUR VIEW, IF GOP COULD IMPLEMENT THIS TWO- YEAR PROGRAM, THIS WOULD BE REASONABLY

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04715 02 OF 03 081347 Z

SATISFACTORY IF NOT OPTIMUM RESULT.

7. ABOVE FALL- BACK SCENARIO FOR SETTLED AREAS -- PROVIDED
A FALL- BACK IS NEEDED-- CAN BE JUSTIFIED ON THE FOLLOWING
GROUNDS:

(A) IT WOULD PERMIT GOP TO START CUTBACK IN
PRODUCTION AREAS WHERE BAN WOULD HAVE LEAST DISRUPTIVE
EFFECT ON LOCAL ECONOMY. PATTERN OF BEGINNING WITH
AREAS OF LESSER PRODUCTION AND MOVING PROGRESSIVELY TO
REDUCTION OF HEAVILY CULTIVATED AREAS HAS BEEN FOLLOWED
IN TURKEY AND HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR AFGHANISTAN BY
UN/ FAO REPORT.

(B) ERADICATING PRODUCTION OVER TWO- YEAR PERIOD
WOULD PERMIT GOP AND PROSPECTIVE EXTERNAL DONORS TO
PUT IN PLACE PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO CUSHION ECONOMIC
IMPACT OF POPPY ERADICATION FOR EAREA CONCERNED. IF
GOP HAS ONE YEAR HEAD START IN SETTING UP COMPENSATORY
PROGRAMS FOR SWABI TEHSIL (WHERE IN MANY LOCATIONS
OBSERVED BY MISSION OFFICERS POPPY WAS CULTIVATED TO
VIRTUAL EXCLUSION OF OTHER RABI (WINTER CROPS), IT
SHOULD BE THAT MUCH EASIER TO PERSUADE FARMERS TO GET
OUT OF POPPY CULTIVATION WITHOUT UNDUE RELIANCE ON
COERCION.

8. WE AGREE THAT IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF MRN: 1973ISLAMA004715 SEGMENT NUMBER:
000003 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
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